

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Claims 3 and 13 are requested to be cancelled. Claims 1, 4, 5, 7, 11, and 14 are currently being amended.

This amendment changes and deletes claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

Applicant appreciates the indication of the allowance of claim 10 and the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 3-9, 13, 14, and 16-19. By this Amendment, Applicant has amended claims 1 and 11 to incorporate the recitations of canceled claims 3 and 13, respectively. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claims 1 and 13, as well as the claims depending therefrom, are in condition for allowance.

Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner consider the references cited in the Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) filed on September 19, 2001.

In the Office Action, claims 1, 11, and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Kanamori (U.S. Patent No. 6,188,489). In addition, claims 2 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kanamori in view of Nakahira (U.S. Published Patent Application No. 2001/0054793). These rejections are moot in view of the amendments to claims 1 and 11.

Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicants hereby petition for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

Date 12/21/05

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